

MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN

Volume V, Issue X

February 2005

LOWER KENNER BEND AND THE NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

On February 15, 2005, the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport closed Runway 10-28 (East-West) for a major rehabilitation project. The runway is expected to remain closed for approximately 9 months. While Runway 10-28 is closed, all aircraft arriving and departing the New Orleans International Airport will be required to use Runway 1-19 (North-South).

Aircraft approaching Runway 1-19 from the south or departing from the north must necessarily pass over Kenner Bend between mile 113.3 and mile 114.3 on the Lower Mississippi River (LMR) above Head of Passes. Due to the close proximity of Runway 1-19 to Kenner Bend, aircraft occasionally descend and ascend directly over vessels at anchor or in transit, creating a potentially dangerous situation that is of particular concern during periods of reduced visibility.

All vessels transiting between mile 113.3 and mile 114.3 on the LMR above Head of Passes are strongly urged to limit their height, as measured from the water surface to the highest point on the vessel, to that which is required to safely pass under the Huey P. Long Bridge at the time of transit.

All vessels anchored in the Lower Kenner Bend Anchorage are strongly urged to refrain from conducting cargo transfer operations or exercise any shipboard cargo handling equipment (i.e. cranes and booms).

The purpose of these requests is to reduce the potential for collision between aircraft and vessels in transit or at anchor at Lower Kenner Bend.

For more information contact the Command Center at (504) 846-5923.

CAPT F. M. Paskewich
Captain of the Port